

31st Fighter Wing: The U.S. Air Force's fighter wing south of the Alps

# THE VIGILEER

Vol. 51 No. 31

August 12, 2005

Aviano Air Base, Italy

## Fly Bys

### Recycling rules

Aviano members are reminded to follow Italian recycling laws. This is a high PCS season and many members have large items that are not being recycled correctly. Airmen are encouraged to contact their local town's recycling centers for proper procedures. For more information, call the environmental flight at Ext. 5394.

### College scholarships

The Aviano Top 3 Association is taking applications for college scholarships from Monday through Aug. 19. Scholarships are open to all active duty members and their dependents. Stop by the base education office or e-mail john.roth@aviano.af.mil for an application form.

### AES open house

The Aviano Elementary School hosts an open house for new and returning students and their parents Aug. 26. Students with last names beginning with an A - L may come 9 - 10:30 a.m., and M - Z 10:30 a.m. - noon.



Airmen 1st Class Desiree Hayden

### Grace under pressure

Staff Sgt. Robert Mott, 31st Civil Engineer Squadron, prepares to dispose two Mk-82 500lb bombs, 20,000 rounds of ammunition and 400 expired aircraft flares, during a routine disposal operation at an undisclosed location Aug. 6. Sergeant Mott is deployed to the 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron.

## Commander announces 2006 goals

By Airmen 1st Class Sarah Gregory

31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

During his first official commander's call Aug. 5, the 31st Fighter Wing commander addressed his 2006 goals for Aviano as well as several issues affecting Airmen here.

Brig. Gen. Robert Yates explained his "Five Fs" philosophy and discussed the goals he would like to see met in 2006.

"All our goals will lead to our mission - and that is be the best in the world at delivering, sustaining, maintaining and redeploying combat power," General Yates said.

With this mission in mind, the general listed the five goals for the 31st Fighter Wing: Be the world's best at flying and fixing airplanes; be the world's best at deploying combat-ready Airmen and equipment; Take care of Airmen, civilians and families; Sustain the 31st Fighter Wing - both

See Goals, Page 7

**First day of school:** The school year begins Aug. 29 in Area One. Expect heavy traffic and drive carefully.

## 31st FW Sortie Board

sortie: n, a flight of a combat aircraft on a mission

	Hours	Sorties
31st FW goal	1780.8	753
	-1.9	-4
555th FS goal	664.8	455
	-24.9	-9
510th FS goal	1116.0	298
	+23	+5



## Sprucing up

As part of Combat Proud, 31st Fighter Wing Airmen work together toward their goal of keeping Aviano looking it's best.

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## Hit the books

Back to school time isn't just for kids - find out how easy it is to attend college classes courtesy of Combat Education.

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## 31st Fighter Wing

# Commander's Corner

By Brig. Gen. Robert Yates  
31st Fighter Wing commander

Ladies and gentlemen of the world's finest - I recently received a letter I thought you all should be aware of. This is tangible evidence of how the impact of what we do everyday is felt worldwide, truly defining us as the "world's finest." Sometimes we get wrapped around the axle at work, spend a lot of time away from our loved ones and lose focus of what we accomplish. This truly shows that what we do everyday is appreciated. It makes me very proud to be a part of the "world's finest" and you should be, too. I look forward to this weekend's exercise, give it all you got and be safe. Have a great training day on Monday and we'll be seeing ya'll around the ranch!



August 4, 2005

Dear Sir or Ma'am,

I am writing to thank all the women and men who supplied refreshments to the soldiers who stopped at Aviano AB on their way to Iraq. My son is with the 82nd Airborne-Special Ops and stopped at Aviano after a stop at Ramstein AFB. This group of soldiers left the states 26 June 05 from Baltimore/Washington Airport. My son thought the area was beautiful and was impressed with the kindness of so many women who put so much effort into their stop. I am sure all the soldiers were. The trip overall totaled 77 hours on a C-130 and I know my son appreciated the refreshments. We all know the tremendous effort it took for these women to bake for so many. As a mother I want to say thank you. I will do my part here in the U.S. to help the soldiers in whatever way I can. Again thank you so very much.

Sincerely,

Susan Barreiro  
Staatsburg, NY

## Kudos: Recognizing Those Who Serve

### Graduates Airman Leadership School

Congratulations to the following Aviano Airman Leadership School graduates. ALS is the first step of Professional Military Education for the Air Force's enlisted corps. Senior airmen and staff sergeant selects must complete this 24-day course in order to obtain the title "supervisor."

- Sarah Peterson, 603rd Air Control Squadron, John Levitow Award recipient
- Stephen Schweiss, 31st Maintenance Squadron, Leadership Award recipient, distinguished graduate
- Glenn Coleman, 704th Munitions Support Squadron, Academic Award recipient, distinguished graduate
- John Linfoot, 31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Shanna Nicole Pollock, 31st AMXS
- Daniel West, 31st AMXS
- Joseph Belfi, 31st MXS
- Edwin Jennings, 31st MXS
- Charles Lopez, 31st MXS
- Jamie Maffei, 31st MXS
- David McCauley, 31st MXS
- Marcus Moore, 31st MXS
- Rolando Mota, 31st MXS
- Chrystal Hampton, 31st Medical Operations Squadron
- Jessica Morin, 31st MDOS
- Gabriel Culp, 31st Medical Support Squadron
- Julia Andujar, 31st Aerospace Medical Squadron
- Jennifer Johnson, 31st Dental Squadron
- Erick Andujar, 31st Communications Squadron
- Adam Baker, 31st CS
- Thomas McMellin, 31st CS
- Shivonne Berridge, 31st Logistics Readiness
- Terrance Devon Brown, 31st LRS
- Kelston Jamale McDonald, 31st LRS
- Karlo Arenivas, 31st Security Forces Squadron
- Michael Dugan VII, 31st SFS
- Caranne Katenay, 31st SFS
- Joseph Parish, 31st SFS
- Jason Patterson, 31st SFS
- Paul Daniel Langelier, 704th MUNS
- Kevin David Sanchez, 712th Munitions Squadron
- Brian White, 712th MUNS
- Gregory Green, 712th Red Horse Flight
- Jeremy Heck, 712th RHF



# A faceless crime

## Financial advisor offers tips to identity theft victims

**By Airman 1st Class  
Sarah Gregory  
31st Fighter Wing  
Public Affairs**

It can send a sinking feeling through your stomach, knowing someone is spending your money, using your name to rack up debt that can take years to clear up. Costing almost \$5 billion in personal expenses to more than 9 million victims in 2004, identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States.

"Since identity theft is fast becoming the most prevalent crime in the U.S., it's important to know what to do if it happens to you," said Tom Snyder, a financial counselor with the Aviano Family Support Center.

The first thing a victim of identity theft needs to do is contact the three big credit reporting agencies; Equifax, Experian or Transunion, advised Mr. Snyder. "Ask that a notation called a fraud alert be attached to your accounts. It's free, good for 90 days and



means that you will be telephoned for verification whenever credit is applied for in your name."

All that's really needed to apply for credit is a person's date of birth, social security number and mother's maiden name, said Mr. Snyder.

The next step is to file a complaint or statement with security forces documenting the fraudulent accounts and other illegal action the thief has taken. "This establishes the date you became aware of the crime and makes it easier to get information and clear your name with financial institutions and government agencies," explained Mr. Snyder.

Victims should also notify the fraud department at their bank and all institutions that granted credit to the thief.

"Accounts affected by fraud should be closed and noted on your record as 'account closed at consumer's request,' not as a lost or stolen card, which could lower your future credit score," said Mr. Snyder. "It's important to ensure that accounts opened by the perpetrator be permanently removed from your records and not just closed."

Once identity theft has been committed, it can take a lot of work to repair damaged credit and clear charges so financial advisors recommend taking steps to prevent fraud.

The best early defense against identity theft is to monitor your bank and credit card statements online, Mr. Snyder said. "Sometimes credit card companies will contact clients regarding suspicious charges; it's especially important for Aviano Airmen to keep track of their expenses because it's often difficult for the companies to get a hold of overseas clients."

Another tip is to always use a credit card instead of a debit card when shopping on

the Internet, said Mr. Snyder. "This protects the shopper in case of card theft because you are only liable for up to \$50 of charges on the credit card, while on the debit card, someone can clean out your checking account."

Also, when shopping online, make sure to use the Web site has a lock symbol indicating it's safe to purchase items with a credit card.

According to the identity theft resource center, besides dumpster diving, mail theft and lost or stolen wallets, criminals are also stealing information by overhearing conversations made on cell phones, from faxes and e-mails, by hacking into computers, from telephone and e-mail scams and even from careless online shopping and banking.

Equifax: 888-766-0008,  
[www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)  
Experian: 800-311-4769,  
[www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)  
Transunion: 800-680-7289,  
[www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)  
For more information, call  
Tom Snyder at Ext. 5656.

**No Vigileer:** There will be no Vigileer published Aug. 19 and 26 because of the publisher's holiday. It will print again Sept. 2.

## Air Force seeks new special agent volunteers

Military members looking to cross train into a challenging and rewarding career field will have the opportunity to meet with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations recruiters here.

Aviano members interested in becoming a special agent can attend a briefing by the headquarters AFOSI recruiters at the new mass briefing facility 8 a.m. Thursday. Individuals who attend the briefing need to bring a records review RIP with them. A RIP can be requested from unit orderly rooms. There will be scheduled interviews 8 to 10 a.m. Aug. 19.

Every special agent is a volunteer. They're members of a highly-trained team that investigate crimes against persons and property, defeat and deter base-level and contract fraud, combat threats to our information systems and technologies and provide the Air Force counterintelligence support for its force protection mission. It's a job that involves excitement and opportunity. Civilian spouses are encouraged to attend the briefings.

Senior airmen with less than six years time in service, staff sergeants through master sergeants with outstanding records

and fewer than 12 years of military service are eligible. Security forces members in the grades of staff sergeant select through master sergeant are also eligible.

Senior airmen must be in their cross training window - 35 to 43 months for four-year enlistees and 59-67 months for six-year enlistees. Members must have at least 18 months time-on-station, which is waivable.

Officers must have less than 12 years Total Active Federal Military Service and less than six years Total Active Federal Commission Service to apply. AFPC must agree to release officer applicants in order to apply. More information can be found at <http://afas.afpc.randolph.af.mil/osi/crossflow.htm>.

Applicants with foreign language, computer and technical skills are among those highly sought after by the AFOSI.

For more information on AFOSI special agent duty prior to the team's visit, visit the OSI website at <http://public.afosi.af.mil> or call Special Agent Nathan Ruiz at Ext. 7642 or Ext. 4415. (Office of Special Investigations)



# Call to arms

## Aviano Airmen trade in weapons for paint brushes

By Staff Sgt. Jerome Baysmore  
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Aviano is host to an ongoing effort to boost base pride. Every day, the base beautification team, facility managers and base officials combine forces to support a program dubbed Combat Proud.

"It fosters a lot of pride because it makes the base look good," said Master Sgt. Christopher Thai, 31st Civil Engineer Squadron superintendent of heavy repair. "Environment is everything. It gives you a good first impression that the place is in order."

First Lt. Gregory Starling, 31st CES chief of Simplify Acquisition Base Engineering Requirement, agreed with Sergeant Thai.

"It's like going to someone's house for the first time, and you notice their lawn is overgrown, there are tires in the yard or their plants are wilted. Just like if you'd go to the same house and see the lawn landscaped and well maintained, you'd notice the attention to detail.

"We try to keep things neat and orderly as possible to project a positive outlook on the base."

Base officials have taken a from the leadership down approach in changing the base appearance from removing debris along the fence line to repainting buildings to conform to the base paint scheme. Combat Proud also takes subtle approaches by changing the color of the orange fences normally seen around construction sites to green.

Aviano also hosts two base appearance teams through the



Staff Sgt. Bethann Caporaletti

During a Combat Proud clean up day 2nd Lt. Israel Rydie, 31st Communication Squadron, paints the towers along the flight line July 15.

First Term Airman Center, which performs minor grounds maintenance, and the base beautification team which plays host to repainting buildings and other projects.

"It's good to have these teams," said Lieutenant Starling. "The general has a 'hit' list that he creates during his outings, and we can call the teams to knock it out that day.

"We try to be proactive at this level wherever we can through sound projects. That way we're not chasing our tails."

## Recognizing Aviano's volunteers



Staff Sgt. Erick Andujar, Staff Sgt. Stephen Schweiss, left, and Senior Airman Julia Andujar, right, dedicated their time and efforts for a charity project they coordinated this month. The volunteer project raised more than \$1,200 in school supplies for two elementary schools in Albania. The schools lacked the necessary resources for their students. With the help of their Airman Leadership School class, these Airmen raised money to purchase the basic supplies the students need to improve their skills and educations experiences.



**Life Support:** Aviano's Red Cross Center seeks volunteers. To volunteer or for more information, call Ext. 5576.

## Goal, from page 1

the mission and Airmen; and achieve these goals with safety in mind at all times.

After defining the wing goals, General Yates discussed how the wing achieved goal days in the past and how goal days will be earned in the future.

Under the previous "RESCON" program, the key way to reward people was to encourage them to follow the law, said General Yates. "While the program did promote safe behaviors, it shouldn't reward people for not breaking the law," he said.

Instead, the new goal day policy will reward 31st FW Airmen with a down day if each group realizes their

selected objective for the month.

"This new goal-day policy will allow Airmen the opportunity to earn their time off," said the wing commander. "I feel strongly about this – if you set goals and work hard, you'll achieve them."

Achieving the goals safely is a point that the general stressed during the commander's call.

One of the significant safety goals is to reduce the number of driving under the influence incidents by 30 percent. "The consequences from these incidents bear a heavy price to pay; one I am unwilling to pay and so should our fellow Airmen."

Gen. Yates also introduces wing Airmen to his philosophy: The Five "Fs" - Family, friends, fun, faith and fitness. The commander's five F's challenge each Aviano Airmen to set and achieve a personal goal for every day during their time here. "I encourage you all to make friends, cultivate relationships, develop a faith and take care of your families," he said.

Overall, the 31st FW Airmen have a busy but fulfilling schedule ahead of them for 2006.

"If you come in every day and give 110 percent, then there is no way we can miss – we will be the worlds finest," General Yates said.

# Airman loses stripes, gains bars in drug conviction

By Senior Airman Amaani Lyle  
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

People who raise their right hand in allegiance to the military know this promise inherently calls for resolute fearlessness.

Last summer, however, one Airman's involvement with narcotics made him realize there is a fine line between courage and audacity.

"I just honestly thought I could never get caught," said 20-year-old Airman Jake Hawkins, formerly a 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron pavement and equipment apprentice, now a Mannheim Correctional Facility prisoner.

Airman Hawkins left his family home in Spencer, Ind., when he was 17 with the same composite of nervousness, excitement and hope shared by many young people beginning their adult life.

"Right after 9-11, I accelerated all my high-school testing so I could finish school early and join the military," he said. "It was such a great feeling to hear people say, 'That boy's doing something positive with his life.'"

Now, one of the last things Airman Hawkins hears each night is the latch of the steel door - a constant reminder of his imprisonment for the introduction of Ecstasy onto a military installation, as well as illegal use and distribution of the popular club drug.

Following tips from a couple of his friends and a subsequent investigation by the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Airman Hawkins was apprehended July 29, 2004, in a dormitory sting transaction with an informant.

While he should have been on permanent-change-of-station status this summer to Moody Air Force Base, Ga., his plans were instead thwarted by what he describes as shuffled priorities.

"I've definitely learned my lesson, and



my priorities are straight now," Airman Hawkins said. "I'm all about supporting my family."

The stakes were much higher than he thought.

Airman Hawkins said his lapse in judgment cost him the opportunity to see the birth of his twin girls this year. His reaction to the conviction seems almost unexpected in light of the consequences.

"In a way, getting busted was the best thing that ever happened to me," he said. "I still love the Air Force -- I just got involved with the wrong environment, the wrong crowd. I was more worried about myself than my future."

The Airman said his future seemed, at best, uncertain once Air Force officials became aware of his drug use.

"Airman Hawkins just about came to tears when he realized that this situation was very real, and he could lose everything he held close to heart -- his job, his family, everything," said Master Sgt. Thomas Bathe, 52nd CES' pavements and equipment section chief and Airman Hawkins' second-line supervisor.

"I'm only sorry that when he was first presented the choice to use drugs or not, he didn't apply the standard of responsibility he's now brought to the forefront of his life," Sergeant Bathe said.

This very choice is one that an increasing number of adolescents must make each day. The opportunity to encounter Ecstasy grows in proportion to the stag-

gering rate of its manufacture.

According to the Drug Enforcement Agency Web site, the agency seized more than three million pills in 2000, with most of the pills likely manufactured in illegal pharmacies in western Europe. The drug can make its way into the hands of as many as 10 percent of people ages 12 to 24.

"The majority of the world's Ecstasy continues to be produced in laboratories in the Netherlands and, to a lesser extent, Belgium," said Steven Casteel, DEA assistant administrator for intelligence. "Given the increasingly global demand for the drug and the high-profit potential derived from its sale, production will likely expand to other areas in the future."

With Ecstasy being detected in more than 900 urinalysis tests conducted by the Department of Defense in 2001, the numbers show that Ecstasy pills are slipping past the gates of military installations just as easily as they bypass schoolyard fences.

Wherever drugs may end up, Sergeant Bathe said the responsibility is ultimately a personal one.

"After seeing this Airman's court martial, conviction and confinement, I would tell any servicemember who may be flirting with disaster to check his or her actions against the core values," Sergeant Bathe said. "The time will come when you're caught, but ask yourself two questions first: 'Would my family and God be proud of this?' and 'Would I be willing to take the punishment associated with my actions?'"

These actions led up to long days, gang showers, bunk beds and a forfeit of all privacy for Airman Hawkins. With about 12 months of confinement ahead of him before he returns to the civilian world, he stands by his message to Airmen.

"I grew up quickly and learned the hard way," Airman Hawkins said. "If you make bad decisions, eventually you will get caught. Period." (Courtesy of U.S. Air Forces in Europe News Service)

## MONEY MATTER\$

In January 2005, the average U.S. household had seven credit cards and carried a balance of \$14,000, the highest level of debt ever.

Banks advertise zero percent annual percentage rates on balance transfers, but the fine print reveals that they charge a balance transfer fee, usually a percent of the amount transferred, for the service.

APRs in credit card solicitations are not fixed. Many banks advertise a range of purchase rates a consumer may be charged and the rate is only fixed after the customer has responded to the

solicitation. Banks solicit customers indiscriminately. Banks sent five billion mail solicitations to Americans last year extending credit to those who can't afford it or don't need it.

Nine out of ten bank issuers in the survey include "universal default" in their terms. This then grants the issuer the right to increase a consumer's interest rate when he or she is late or delinquent with an entirely different creditor or utility provider. The average rate increase is 25.4%. This also applies to pre-existing balances.

For more information or to make a financial counseling appointment, call Tom Snyder at Ext. 5656.



# Staff sergeant promotees

**31st Aerospace Medicine Squadron:** Julia Andujar • Christina Majors • Maricela Taylor • Kristy Zentkovich • Miracle Chambers • Crystal Fletcher • Michael Ona • Sulema Wilkerson • **31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron:** David Aguirre Jr. • Samuel Arpy • Daniel Barker • Kenneth Blanchard • Benjamin Buehler • Thad Burton • Kenneth Campbell • Aaron Chambers • Wilberto Garcia • Jeffrey Gilles • Brian Greer • Gaylon Hardman • Paul Herrera • Samuel Jones • Joshua Keber • John Linfoot • Kevin Mack • Nathan McDonald • Eric McGowan • Kellie Morrill • Keith Nelms • Chad Perkins • Thomas Podgorski • Roger Price • Zachary Smith • Daniel Stemkoski • Taylor Travers • Douglas Wilderotter • Jason Frayne • Israel Holston • Larry Jones • Anthony Mejia • Julie Rivera • Jeffrey Torres • Brandon Ward • Jason Jenkins • Gavin McGarrell • Brian O'Connor • Peter Spoelstra • **31st Civil Engineer Squadron:** Bryan Adams • Terri Adams • Ivonne Collado • Steven Llamas • Jesus Olivares • Kelly Olivares • Karen Santiago • Francisco Sierra • Kyle Warnock • Michael Were • Michael Weyer • Wayne Winder • Christopher Blackburn • William Fort • Ualter Freitas • Matthew Maguire • Donald McMillian • Dartanian Mumford • Clayton Tiemann • Sherwyn Tolentino • Ismael Vallejos • Ricardo Vera • Jason Brooks • Drew Jackson • **31st Communications Squadron:** Erick Andujar • Alicia Argudin • Adam Baker • Aaron Black • Itzia Cabantirado • Kristen Griego • Daryl Hardeman • Brett Hunt • Amanda Leak • Thomas McMellin • Dennis Polite Jr. • Bert Rilet • Kurt Roberson • Tobias Salloum • Matthew Smith • Kenneth Zapatos • Sean Barry • Miguel Bonilla • Christopher Routt • Matthew Sion • Denis Szurkiewicz • Jillian Williams • Thomas Ageifel • Steven Beatty • Kevin Caldwell • Peter Lynch • **31st Comptroller Squadron:** Angela Strotz • Mary Thomas • **31st Contracting Squadron:** Paul Pullins Jr. • **31st Dental Squadron:** Gordon Pingel II • Tiawana West • **31st Fighter Wing:** David Jeffcoat • Priscilla Perdomo • **31st Logistics Readiness Squadron:** Brian Alvarado • Tiffani Ball • John Begg • Shivonne Berridge • Stephanie Brown • Scott Dantin • Xavier El • Ernesto Fernandez De Castro • Adrian Garcia • Geoffrey Goretskie • Joe Harden • Ronett Jones • Kelston McDonald • Samuel McGlockton • Arsenio Morales Jr. • Vi Nguyenpham • Alessio Orlando • Dominick Perino • Cash Polan • Ismael Rosa Jr. • Dan Ross • Laura Sheldon • Timothy Shockley • Soumal Souvanh • Cory Thomasson • Fabricio Toscano • Robert Wideman • Angel Zayas • Daniel Coleman • Larry Frazier • Matthew Hicks



Staff sergeants wear a chevron of four stripes with a silver star in the center. Pay grade is E-5. They are primarily craftsmen with certain NCO supervisory responsibilities. They may hold either a 5- or 7-skill level. They are responsible for their subordinates and the effective accomplishment of assigned tasks. Staff sergeants must continuously strive to further their development as technicians and supervisors.

• Luis Irizarry • Kelly Jones • Lacey Monroe • Michael Reilly • Ricardo Ruiz • Kevin Alexander • James McKinney • Vincent Stilaire • John Matthew Thomas • Joe Walling • **31st Maintenance Group:** Maurice Carbajal • Zachary McNair • Lucas Newman • Steven Grounds • Innocent Weldon • Donald Wisniewski • **31st Maintenance Squadron:** Bradley Allen • Anthony Alvernaz • Rebecca Baker • Adam Beal • Jeremy Carver • Timothee Debaghy • Jason DeGrasse • Reina DeJesus • Jason David Enoch • Jessica Esparza • Andrew Faustian • Thomas Fitzpatrick • Daniel Flegal • Dwayne Fuller • Lori Grand • Robert Gray • Douglas Hamilton • David Helm • Jacob Hughey • Jeffrey Hunt • Anna Jeffcoat • Edwin Jennings • Joshua Kerr • Paul Leppich • Christopher Maurer • David McCauley • Bobby McMillian • Andrew McPherson • Tracy Mullins • Anthony Ognibene • Jordan Perry • Pamela Rogers • Robert Rogers • Benjamin Roland • Nathaniel Schilz • Jonathan Shank • Matthew Sigmon • Richard Sloan • Michael Smith • Ryan Joseph Souza • Christopher St Peter • Paul Stout • David Tarver • Roland Tellez • Robert Vuchetich • Mary Weimer • Brandon Wilson • Kris Wylie • Andrew Zahm • Robert Eldridge • Anthony Faircloth • Philip Faltesek • Sabrina Fanfan • Shayne Franklin • Jeremy Hemington • Deric Hiscock • Patrick Kelly • Micheal Letts • Peter Lohrig • Brandon Lyda • Jeanne Tomlinson • Michael Williams • Paul Anderson • Micah Baker • Weston Byrd • Colin Chalmers • Joshua Dehaven • Jeremy Drum • Eva Glinka • James Harvey • Shawanda Jenkins • Geoffrey Latner • Robert Lewis • Jeffrey Shock • Ross Stepka • **31st Medical Operations Squadron:** Chrystal Hampton • Jessica Morin • Georlita Senen • Felix Cardenas • Lacey Johnson • Erik Skaggs • Katy Smith • Wynetta Thomas • Kyle Grantham • Jennifer Jackson • **31st Mission Support Squadron:** Dwayne Freeman • Kristen Borchers • Brian Adams • Magda

Andino • **31st Operations Support Squadron:** William Fecher • Laura Hamilton • Regina Nickel • Desmond Bell • **31st Security Forces Squadron:** Robert Adao • Karlo Arenivas • Kathleen Berry • Orlando Chavis • Timonthy Davis • Michael Dugan • Anita Gaddis • Robert Greco • Anthony Harbor • Jimmy Harris • Samuel Jalomo • Richard Kocher • William Lagares • Matthew Nelson • Jason Patterson • Rojen Richards • Thillet Rodriguez • Eric Sanders • Christopher Toms • Shannon Zemke • Larry Brown • Joseph McCauley • Jose Vasquez • John Crandall • Samuel Giordano • Charles House • Daniel Santos • **31st Services Squadron:** Melissa McKee • Jennifer Price • Dangelo Tolbert • Timothy Williams • Anthony Arculeo • **496th Air Base Squadron:** Marie Hickok • Sharod Lane • Chad Palmer • Daniel Ricks • Lakietha Clark • Michael Cole • Nicholas Kehoe • Brian Redenbaugh • **510th Fighter Squadron:** Vanessa Brown • **555th Fighter Squadron:** Corey Brown • Ryan Griffin • **603rd Air Control Squadron:** Daniel Ball • Joseph Burns • Michael Fedorowski • Stephen Fornander • Gregory George • Zachary Hodges • Anthony Lencowski • Fernando Maestas • Justin Oaks • Scott Petteway • Terrance West • Tyrone Asia • Kristy Molinar • Brian Collins • Corey Meno • Natalia Williams • **704th Munitions Support Squadron:** James Baroni • Stanley Dotloe • Erick Dunn • Bo Gray • Joshua Harrison • Michelle Martell • Anthony Sanger • Marlah Wright • Hugo Astudillo • Esther Duhon • Maurice Grant • Gregory Greer • Scott Klenke • Sarah McDonald • Michael McGuire • Roxanne Aceves • Shrydell Simon • **712 Air Base Group:** Monica Nava • **712 Munitions Squadron:** Russell Achee • Jason Bartoe • William Bowden • Jason Cobb • Joseph Klunder • Richard Ludlum • Kevin Sanchez • Melissa Shields • David Skelton • Brian White • Jonathan Smith • Jamison Nevins • **712th Red Horse Flight:** Phillip Herzig • Maretta Height • Jeremiah Sarreal • **724th Air Mobility Squadron:** Jeffery Hunter • Michael Reddy • Fredric Rosario • John Tedrow • **725th Air Mobility Squadron:** Robert Allison • Antonio Garcia • Cedrick Godwin • Paul Hartless • Samantha Robinson • Maurice Smith • Darnisha Wallace • John Wingrove • Christopher Bunn • Derrick Foote • Sebrina Johnson • William Smith • Carl Williams • **18th Space Control Squadron Detachment 4:** Joanna Noel • Travis Winstead • **21st Operations Group Detachment 4:** Kara Colton • **Air Force News Agency, Detachment 8:** Ryan Denney • Anthony Plyler.

# Combat Education

## Helping Airmen make college dreams a reality

### Air Force Tuition Assistance

The Air Force Tuition Assistance Program provides 100 percent tuition and fees for college courses taken by active duty eligible Airmen, regardless of grade and time in service. TA is capped at \$250 per semester hour and is restricted to a maximum of \$4,500 per fiscal year. TA is not authorized for courses leading to a lateral or lower level degree than you already possess. Some exceptions to the rules are:

- TA will be provided for a Community College of the Air Force degree regardless of current education level.
- TA will be provided for a civilian college associate degree even if you have completed a CCAF associate degree but haven't already obtained a civilian associate or higher degree.
- Officers with 15 years or less total active federal commissioned service are authorized TA for a graduate degree in a foreign language.
- The last 12 semester of undergraduate prerequisite courses needed for admission to graduate school (if student doesn't already have a master's degree), students applying for undergraduate pre-requisites must produce a letter from the parent school detailing the undergraduate pre-requisites the student needs for admission.

• For officers, courses leading to foreign language proficiency. Students are no longer required to obtain a supervisor's signature on the TA form; however, they are expected to discuss school schedule with supervisor to ensure that participation has his or her support.

After students complete the tuition assistance form and register for classes, they may still drop/change courses without penalty as long as the base education center and the school are notified. If a course is dropped after the drop/add period, students must still notify the base education center and the school and are liable for the cost of tuition, unless they qualify for a tuition assistance reimbursement waiver.

Aviano Airmen can apply for tuition assistance by visiting the base education center in Bldg. 186, Area One during the school's registration period. Airmen may also call the base education center at Ext. 5330 and apply for TA over the phone when TDY.

### University of Maryland

The University of Maryland University College-Europe offers a wide variety of study programs.

Students with UMUC-Europe may pursue an associate degree in general curriculum or one of the associate degrees in specialized curricula (accounting, business and management, computer studies, foreign language area studies [German, Italian and Spanish], management studies, mathematics and women's studies). All requirements noted involve lower-level courses, although appropriate upper-level courses may be substituted.

UMUC students in Europe can take bachelor's degree programs in the following fields: accounting, anthropology, art history and appreciation, business administration, business law and public policy, communication studies, computer and information science, computer studies, criminal justice, economics, English, foreign language area studies, general studies, government and politics, history, humanities, human resource management, information systems management, international business management, management studies, mathematics, marketing, psychology, social science, sociology and women's studies.

Students may take a combination of online and traditional classes to complete the requirements for their bachelor's degree.

When students leave Europe, they also have access to addition-



al UMUC programs; African American studies, art, art history, Asian studies, biology, biotechnology, business supply chain management, computer information technology, computer science, environmental management, finance, fire science, forensics, gerontology, global business and public policy, journalism, legal studies, mathematical sciences, microbiology, natural science, speech communication, and strategic and entrepreneurial management.

For more information, visit the UMUC office in Bldg. 186, Area One, online at [www.ed.umuc.edu](http://www.ed.umuc.edu) or call Ext. 5365.

### Embry-Riddle

*Undergraduate degree programs:*

- Associate in Technical Management
- Associate in Professional Aeronautics
- Bachelor in Professional Aeronautics
- Bachelor in Technical Management
- Bachelor in Technical Management Logistics

*Graduate degree programs:*

- Master of Aeronautical Science
- Specializations - Aeronautics/Management/Operations

Visit Embry-Riddle online for course schedules and degree program requirements at [www.erau.edu/aviano](http://www.erau.edu/aviano). The Embry-Riddle education center is located in Bldg. 186, Area One. For more information call Isabel Milliner at Ext. 5140 or e-mail at [center@erau.edu](mailto:center@erau.edu). (Information courtesy of Combat Education, a U.S. Air Forces in Europe Command and Special Interest Program)

## AMS orientation

Aviano Middle School hosts orientation for students and parents Aug. 26. Sixth grade students meet 8 a.m., seventh grade meet at 10:30 a.m. and eighth grade at 1 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. Students will receive agendas, handbooks, computer passwords and school photo schedules. Parents and students will also have the opportunity to tour the school and meet teachers and staff. For more information, call Odessa Mangosing at Ext. 5777.

## AHS open house

Aviano High School is hosting an open house at noon Aug. 29. Students will assemble in the cafeteria at 12:10 p.m. and parents will meet up with their children at 12:25 p.m. Class visits take place 12:30 to 2:35 p.m.

## Friendship Day

The Honorary Squadron Commanders Association is hosting the Fourth Annual Italian-American Friendship

Day 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 11 at the municipal park of San Quirino. The event is designed to get the local Italian and American community together for a day of fun, sports, entertainment, music and Italian food. It's a way for the Italian hosts to thank the U.S. base population for all it does to preserve democracy and liberty and strengthen friendship.

The event is open to the whole base population, military, families and friends, and is free, including food and beverages.

## Summer festival

The Aviano 37th International Folklore Festival runs through Tuesday in downtown Aviano in front of Hotel Posta. Events include folklore dancing groups from Aviano, Greece, Russia, Serbia, Mexico, Hungary and Latina (Italy) performing Sunday and Monday beginning at 9:15 p.m. Entry fee is five Euro. Food booths will be open for dinner throughout all events.

Other free events include:

9 p.m. Saturday - "Valter Lovisa" Orchestra and dance

6 p.m. Tuesday - United Games - U.S. Air Force vs. Italian air force soccer game at Aviano Parish soccer field

7 p.m. Tuesday - United Games Soccer prize ceremony takes place in front of Hotel Posta in Aviano. Event includes free American BBQ and Western country music performed by Whisky River Band, jumping castle, horse shoe games, volleyball and bocce ball and other entertainment.

## Harley barbecue

The Aviano Harley Owners Group Chapter is sponsoring a free barbecue for all ID card-holding Harley-Davidson riders Sunday in Area D. The festivities start with a ride at 10:30 a.m. at Area D. The ride will finish back at Area D at 12:30 p.m. for food, drinks, biker games and a raffle. For more information, e-mail wayne parks at wayne.parks@aviano.af.mil.

## CGO conference

The European Region Company Grade Officers Conference is Oct. 3 - 6 at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. The conference is a joint effort with the Ramstein CGO Council and Project Connect. The theme is Leadership and Professional Development. All Armed Forces CGOs in the European area of responsibility are invited to attend. Call 2nd Lt. Sandra Bannan at 314-480-5469 or sandra.bannan@ramstein.af.mil for details.

## Housing closure

The Housing Management Office will be closed Monday for an Italian holiday.

## Hearing tests

All hearing tests have moved from Area One to Flight Medicine in Area F. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Bell at Ext. 5320.

## Logistics degrees

Embry-Riddle offers a logistics certificate program

that gives students an opportunity to complement their practical experience in logistics with a study of the theories and methods of the discipline. In addition, the program's courses cover much of the Certified Professional Logistician examination administered by the Society of Logistical Engineers. Embry-Riddle also offers a supply chain management certificate that prepares supply/logistics professionals to take the American Production and Inventory Control Society Certification in Production and Inventory Management exam.

For more information call ERAU at Ext. 5140.

## Dental exams

Pediatric dental exams at the Base Chapel Annex are suspended during the months of August and September. The 31st Dental Squadron is open 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday, except federal holidays and wing down days. Emergency care is available 24-hours a day, by calling Ext. 5000. Appointments for comprehensive dental care can be made by calling Ext. 5060. Children under the age of 12 must be attended to at all times. Dental appointments will be re-scheduled for patients with unattended children below the age of twelve.

## Officer opportunity

The Air Force seeks officers with international insight, foreign language proficiency and cultural understanding to work in today's security and expeditionary operations environment for international political-military assignments as International Affairs Specialists.

For more information on the IAS program, log onto the IAS Web site on the Air Force Portal at <https://www.my.af.mil/iaw/iaw>. For more qualifications or eligibility information, officers can call their appropriate assignments/development team or the AFPC IAS assignments

## Reel Times

**Today, 5 p.m.** - "Herbie: Fully Loaded" Rated G - The new owner of Number 53 - puts the car through its paces on the road to becoming a NASCAR® competitor. Starring: Lindsay Lohan, Justin Long

**Today, 8 p.m.** - "Cinderella Man" Rated PG-13 - In the middle of the Depression, came an unlikely hero, the "Cinderella Man" who had crowds cheering on their feet, as he proved just how hard a man would fight to win a second chance. Starring: Russell Crowe, Renee Zellweger

**Saturday, 2 p.m.** - "Herbie: Fully Loaded" Rated G

**Saturday, 7 p.m.** - "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants" Rated PG - Four best friends, Tibby, Lena, Carmen and Bridget spend their first summer apart from one another, they share a magical pair of jeans. Starring: Amber Tamblyn, America Ferrara

**Sunday, 7 p.m.** - "Cinderella Man" Rated PG-13

**Tuesday, 7 p.m.** - "Batman Begins" Rated PG-13 - The origins of the Batman legend and the Dark Knight's emergence as a force for good in Gotham. Starring: Christian Bale, Ken Watanabe

**Wednesday, 7 p.m.** - "Cinderella Man" Rated PG-13

**Thursday, 11:30 a.m.** - "Garfield" Rated PG - Jon Arbuckle buys a second pet, a dog named Odie. However, Odie is then abducted and it is up to Jon's cat, Garfield, to find and rescue the canine. Animated

**Thursday, 7 p.m.** - "Herbie: Fully Loaded" Rated G (Titles and times are courtesy of [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com), and are subject to change.)



### Fly Bys

#### Experience Europe

The Information Tickets and Travel office offers group and customized tour packages for one-day trips, express travel, overnight and morale tours, sight-seeing and shopping trips. The office can arrange travel and reservations for squadron and private tours as well as daily and weekly tours. For more information, call Ext. 5072.

#### Local area festivals

**Aug. 20-21** - The Sagra dei Osei (bird festival) takes place in Sacile beginning Aug. 20 and goes on all night with food stands and music all over town. There is a competition if the singing birds early on the morning of Aug. 21.

**Sept. 3** - La Sagra dei Sest (wicker festival), a 300-year-old tradition, takes place in Polcenigo.

**Sept. 5** - The Pordenone Pedala is a 40 kilometer bicycle excursion.

#### Safe traveling tips

If you are traveling around Europe, remember the following travel safety tips:

- Carry the minimum amount of valuables necessary for your trip. When you carry cash, credit cards or a passport, keep them with you. Conceal them in several places rather than putting them all in one wallet or pouch.
- Avoid handbags, fanny packs and outside pockets; they are easy targets.
- Don't wear clothes that easily identify you as American, such as those displaying the flag, American colleges or sports teams.
- Avoid talking about religion or politics with strangers. If a person ever approaches you with the intent to start such a discussion, ignore him or her and walk away.

## Local area beaches offer more than just sun, surf

Whether you're looking for adventure or just a relaxing nap in the sun this summer, the Friuli Venezia Giulia and Veneto regions offer long, sandy beaches for all types, for adults and kids. So pack your beach bag and take your pick.

**Caorle** - With more than 11,000 residents, Caorle is an important sea town with a long history and lifestyle. Originally a Roman settlement, it had both an active military and commercial sea port. Among the interesting sites is the Church of Madonna dell'Angelo, a little sanctuary rebuilt in 1751 in which the statue of the Lady Madonna is preserved as symbol of protection of the fishermen.

This Sept. 11, the Madonna dell'Angelo Festival will be held in Caorle, an event which happens every five years. Starting at 3 p.m. there is a procession from the sea, where the statue of the Madonna will be carried from the fishing harbor to the Sanctuary where it usually lies. All the fishing boats of Caorle and other boats will participate in the procession following the "caorlina" boat; people will be able to enjoy the procession from the rocky shore.

Caorle is without doubt the most charming village of the area with its 15 kilometers of coastline, beach services, hotels and apartments for tourists. Here visitors can enjoy both a relaxing day and a pleasant night thanks to the various shows and the fashionable cafes.

**Grado** - From the time of the first barbarian invasions to the history of the Republic of Venice, intricate and remote historical events are linked up with the history of Aquileia. At the time of the fall of the Republic of Venice, Aquileia



Courtesy photo

Now a popular resort town, Caorle was originally a Roman settlement with an active sea port.

shared the Hapsburg counties of Gorizia and Gradisca and at the fall of the Austrian Empire, Aquileia's history combined with the most recent Italian history.

Grado became well known for its spa during the reign of the Austro-Hungarian Emperor. In 1892, Franz Josef suggested Grado become the official spa of the Empire. Today this little town is one of the favorite Italian spa destinations. The geographical location of Grado offers a year-round mild climate. The ionized seawater and the sand, rich in beneficial minerals, reinvigorate the body and the soul year-round. The city has been awarded the "Blue Flag" for the 16th time - an important Italian recognition of the quality of sea and the services offered.

For more information, write to the tourist board at [info@gradoturismo.info](mailto:info@gradoturismo.info) or call 0431-877111. People interested in visiting Grado can also look online for more information at: [www.gradoit.it/terme\\_grado.html](http://www.gradoit.it/terme_grado.html), [www.grado.it](http://www.grado.it) or [www.isoladelsole.it](http://www.isoladelsole.it). (31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs and Monica Delrizzo)

**Travel Web site:** Americans with travel plans should visit <http://travel.state.gov> to get the latest travel advisories in Europe.



Courtesy photo

## Information, Tickets and Tours

Upcoming tours from the Information, Tickets and Travel office include:

- Saturday - Croatia by boat
- Saturday - Guided San Marino
- Aug. 20 - Guided Florence
- Aug. 20 - Guided Verona and Medieval Times dinner show
- Aug. 27 - Trieste and its castles
- Aug. 27 - Wine tasting in Grado
- Sept. 3-5 - Cinque Terre and its

five villages; Monterosso, Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola and Riomaggiore.

ITT escorts ensure the group arrives and departs from the destination as scheduled and will do everything possible to make the trip safe and comfortable. Escorts also provide general information about the area. Call Ext. 5072 or 5026, for more information.

With 18 kilometers of sheer rocky coastline, Cinque Terre is made up of five villages built into the rocks between the beach and the hills.



Airman Nathan Doza

## Swing batter, batter, swing

Aviano Dragons softball team member, Bob Ferrau, hits his second homerun of the softball championship game against the Napoli Express here Sunday.

## Fly Bys

### Cheerleading camp

Kaiserslautern High School will host a Universal Cheer Association cheerleading camp Labor Day Weekend, Sept. 2 through 4. The event, is open to all prospective high school cheerleaders across Europe. Cost is \$95, payable at the door and all schools sponsoring a cheer team in the fall are encouraged to attend.

### Beach volleyball

The men's and women's Aviano beach volleyball open tournament runs Sept. 8 through 11 in downtown Aviano. There is no entry fee and interested participants may contact Jessica Jackson at the Dragon Fitness Center at Ext. 7459.

### Start smart soccer

Online registration for the Aviano Youth Center's start smart soccer program for 3 and 4 year olds runs through Aug. 26. Cost is \$45 and includes a youth T-shirt and youth soccer package. For more information, call Ext. 8713.

### Youth soccer

Online registration for the Aviano Youth Center's regular soccer program runs through Aug. 26. Cost is \$45 for members and \$50 for non-members. For more information, call Ext. 8713.

### Kuk Sool Won

The Aviano Community Center offers youth and adult Kuk Sool Won classes. Youth classes are: 6 to 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays; adult classes are: 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays. For prices and more information, call Ext. 5479.

### Yoga and Pilates

The Aviano Community Center offers yoga and pilates classes 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and 7 to 8 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays. The Tuesday and Thursday classes are from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. For more information, call Ext. 5479.

**Serve:** Open gym volleyball is 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays at the Aviano Dragon Fitness Center.

## Aviano High School fall sports schedule

### Football/Cheerleading\*

Sept. 17 -- Vilseck (away)  
Sept. 24 -- Bamberg (home)  
Oct. 1 -- Ansbach (away)  
Oct. 8 -- Vicenza (home)  
Oct. 15 -- Hohenfels (away)  
Oct. 22 -- Playoffs  
Oct. 29 -- Playoffs  
Nov. 4 -- Championship

\*Cheerleaders do not travel to all away games

### Volleyball

Sept. 17 -- Vicenza, Livorno, Milan (home)  
Sept. 24 -- Milan (away)  
Oct. 1 -- AOSR (Sigonella) (away)  
Oct. 8 -- Vicenza (home)

Oct. 15 -- Naples, Patch, Vilseck (home)  
Oct. 22 -- Naples (away)  
Oct. 29 -- Vicenza, (Milan, Livorno) (away)  
Nov. 3-5 -- Championship

### Cross Country

Sept. 17 -- Vicenza, Livorno, Milan (home)  
Sept. 24 -- Milan (MMI) (away)  
Oct. 1 -- AOSR (Sigonella, MMI, Naples, Milan) (away)  
Oct. 8 -- Vicenza (home)  
Oct. 15 -- Naples, Patch, Vilseck, Vicenza, Livorno, MMI (home)  
Oct. 22 -- Naples (away)  
Oct. 29 -- Championship

A bird's eye view ...

# Aviano's mission seen from the top

By Col. Kimberly Toney  
31st Mission Support Group  
commander

Aviano Air Base ... WOW! Take a moment, clear your thoughts and ask yourself, "What does Aviano and what do the local communities have to offer?"

Looking down at the base from Piancavallo last Sunday, we took a few moments to ask ourselves this question. The view of Aviano and the surrounding community from Piancavallo is breathtaking. When you look down from 1,250 meters, you see lush, green vineyards, corn fields and farms. You also see an incredible amount of construction in progress and our beautiful installation right in the center of the Aviano region.

The runway packed with jets remind us of our mission: to train, deliver, maintain and support combat air power over the globe when tasked by our nation's leaders in support of national objectives or alliances. You see old buildings, new buildings, recreation areas and more. The terra cotta roofs stand out and add a special beauty to old and new facilities.

Aviano is growing and maturing day by day. From expanding the runway to building a new hot pit refueling area, the base is blossoming. Just in the last few weeks, we opened up a mass briefing facility, the post office-theater piazza, an integrated communications complex and an auto skills facility and we have more facilities opening this summer.

The theater is great - Batman played last Friday night and what a crowd! The prices are reasonable, parking is plentiful and the facility is top of the line. Check out a movie soon.

How about the new post office?! What a wonderful difference as you walk up to and into this new facility. The finance windows allow you to process your packages and registered mail much more expediently; the windows offer increased light and sunshine and the customer

service is second to none. The next step is to transition the package pickup to the old post office so customers can pick up boxes right next door. The piazza is a wonderful gathering area. You'll see new benches and trees in the area soon so you can sit and relax in the sun while you look through your mail or while waiting for your friends and family.

The new integrated communications complex brings the communications squadron together in a state-of-the art facility that provides one-stop support to their customers. Stop in for a tour or sign up for training in the new training rooms.

Are you into working on your car or looking for automobile guidance? Stop by the new auto skills shop and sign up for the safety orientation class or ask the staff questions you may have about your automobile. New lifts are on the way and tools are ready and available for use.

On the horizon, we're going to see the new Kindergarten facility and youth activity center open up for the 2005-2006 school year. School begins Aug. 29 (Kindergarten begins Sept. 6) and we can't wait to see the children's and parent's eyes light up on the first day of school! We are pleased that this new facility will allow us to support full-day Kindergarten. Close by, the new youth activity center will provide an impressive gymnasium, a teen center, meeting and computer rooms, a full kitchen and much more.

In addition, a new child development center will open in early September - it's located right behind the old post office. You can drive by now and see the new facility and the neat playground equipment.

Our wing is at the tip of the spear and our leaders, at all levels, are committed to improving not only overall mission support, but also the quality of life for all of us and our families. Take some time to tour these new facilities - make time to enjoy these new facilities and programs with friends and family!



## The Cornerstone

An indispensable and fundamental basis

The Cornerstone Page is devoted to those who support junior enlisted, NCOs, CGOs and spouses. It's to share advice, ideas and opinions dealing with life in the Air Force and Aviano. It's also a forum to recognize those around us. The Cornerstone Page will also offer Air Force trivia and facts.

Submission info: We want to hear from you. Flex your writing talents and share your thoughts with us and the community.

Commentaries: Writers can send commentaries to [vigileer@aviano.af.mil](mailto:vigileer@aviano.af.mil). Commentaries must be 500 to 700 words. Topics must be applicable to the Air Force, Aviano and appeal to the general public. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Kudos: Aviano members can send kudos to [Vigileer@aviano.af.mil](mailto:Vigileer@aviano.af.mil) with the subject line "Kudos." Kudos can be submitted for appreciation, retirements, awards, good service, promotions and graduations.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Faxed articles will not be accepted by the staff. The public affairs office is in Bldg. 1360, Room 19.

## Airman Artless

by Ben Schneider

